

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of securing a wheel cover to a wheel to form a wheel assembly which method comprises:

providing a wheel having an outboard surface with a plurality of centrally located lug bolt apertures formed in the outboard surface and a plurality of openings formed in the outboard surface and spaced radially outwardly from the lug bolt apertures;

providing a wheel cover having an inner surface and a plurality of centrally located lug bolt apertures formed in the wheel cover which correspond to the lug bolt apertures of the wheel, and a plurality of decorative openings formed in the wheel cover and spaced radially outwardly from the lug bolt apertures, which plurality of openings correspond to the plurality of openings formed in the wheel cover;

applying a primary adhesive pattern to at least one of the outboard surface of the wheel or the inner surface of the wheel cover;

applying an auxiliary adhesive pattern to at least one of the outboard surface of the wheel or the inner surface of the wheel cover; and

assembling the wheel cover to the wheel to cause the primary and auxiliary adhesive patterns to contact both the outboard surface of the wheel and the inner surface of the wheel cover and thereby enable the adhesive pattern to secure the wheel cover to the wheel and define a space between the wheel cover and wheel which is not filled with adhesive,

said primary adhesive pattern being sufficient to secure the wheel cover to the wheel and comprising a configuration of beads of adhesive that do not fill the entire space between the wheel cover and the wheel,

said auxiliary adhesive pattern being insufficient to secure the wheel cover to the wheel and comprising a configuration of discrete beads of adhesive that are provided in portions of the space between the wheel cover and the wheel which are hollow.

2. A method of securing a wheel cover to a wheel to form a wheel assembly according to claim 1, wherein said primary adhesive pattern includes a configuration of beads of adhesive that after contacting both the outboard surface of the wheel and the inner surface of the wheel cover allows ambient fluids to enter throughout the space between the wheel cover and the wheel which is not filled with adhesive and exit the space.

3. A method of securing a wheel cover to a wheel to form a wheel assembly according to claim 1, wherein the discrete beads of adhesive of the auxiliary adhesive pattern have opposite terminal ends that are non-connected to the primary adhesive pattern.

4. A method of securing a wheel cover to a wheel to form a wheel assembly according to claim 1, wherein the discrete beads of adhesive of the auxiliary adhesive pattern have at least one opposite terminal end that is connected to the primary adhesive pattern.

5. A method of securing a wheel cover to a wheel to form a wheel assembly according to claim 1, wherein the discrete beads of adhesive of the auxiliary adhesive pattern are linear.

6. A method of securing a wheel cover to a wheel to form a wheel assembly according to claim 1, wherein the discrete beads of adhesive of the auxiliary adhesive pattern have curved portions.

7. A method of securing a wheel cover to a wheel to form a wheel assembly according to claim 1, wherein the primary adhesive pattern and the auxiliary adhesive pattern comprise a similar adhesive material.

8. A method of securing a wheel cover to a wheel to form a wheel assembly according to claim 1, wherein the wheel cover is made from one of a metal and a plastic material.

9. A wheel assembly which comprises:

a wheel having an outboard surface with a plurality of centrally located lug nut apertures formed in the outboard surface and a plurality of openings formed in the outboard surface and spaced radially outwardly from the lug nut apertures;

a wheel cover having an inner surface and a plurality of centrally located lug nut apertures formed in the wheel cover which are aligned with the lug nut apertures of the wheel, and a plurality of decorative openings formed in the wheel cover and spaced radially outwardly from the lug nut apertures, which plurality of openings are aligned with the plurality of openings formed in the wheel cover;

a cured primary adhesive pattern between the wheel and wheel cover which bonds the wheel and wheel cover together with a space between the wheel and wheel cover which space is not filled with the cured primary adhesive; and

a cured auxiliary adhesive pattern that is insufficient to secure the wheel cover to the wheel and comprises a configuration of discrete beads of adhesive that are provided in portions of the space between the wheel cover and the wheel which are hollow.

10. A wheel assembly according to claim 9, wherein said cured primary adhesive pattern includes a configuration of beads of adhesive that allows ambient fluids to enter throughout the space between the wheel cover and the wheel which is not filled with cured primary adhesive and the cured auxiliary adhesive.

11. A wheel assembly according to claim 9, wherein the discrete beads of adhesive of the cured auxiliary adhesive pattern have opposite terminal ends that are non-connected to the primary adhesive pattern.

12. A wheel assembly according to claim 9, wherein the discrete beads of adhesive of the cured auxiliary adhesive pattern have at least one opposite terminal end that is connected to the cured primary adhesive pattern.

13. A wheel assembly according to claim 9, wherein the discrete beads of adhesive of the auxiliary adhesive pattern are linear.

14. A wheel assembly according to claim 9, wherein the discrete beads of adhesive of the auxiliary adhesive pattern have curved portions.

15. A wheel assembly according to claim 9, wherein the cured primary adhesive pattern and the cured auxiliary adhesive pattern comprise a similar adhesive material.

16. A method of reducing hollow sounds in wheel assemblies which method comprises:

providing a wheel having an outboard surface with a plurality of centrally located lug bolt apertures formed in the outboard surface and a plurality of openings formed in the outboard surface and spaced radially outwardly from the lug bolt apertures;

providing a wheel cover having an inner surface and a plurality of centrally located lug bolt apertures formed in the wheel cover which correspond to the lug bolt apertures of the wheel, and a plurality of decorative openings formed in the wheel cover and spaced radially outwardly from the lug bolt apertures, which plurality of openings correspond to the plurality of openings formed in the wheel cover;

applying a primary adhesive pattern to at least one of the outboard surface of the wheel or the inner surface of the wheel cover, said primary adhesive pattern defining areas that will be hollow when the wheel cover and the wheel are bonded together by the primary adhesive pattern;

applying an auxiliary adhesive pattern to at least one of the outboard surface of the wheel or the inner surface of the wheel cover, said auxiliary adhesive pattern consisting of discrete beads of adhesive that will be positioned in the hollow areas defined by the primary adhesive pattern; and

assembling the wheel cover to the wheel to cause the adhesive to contact both the outboard surface of the wheel and the inner surface of the wheel cover and thereby enable the primary adhesive pattern to secure the wheel cover to the wheel.

17. A method of reducing hollow sounds in wheel assemblies according to claim 16,
wherein the discrete beads of adhesive of the auxiliary pattern have opposite terminal ends that
are non-connected to the primary adhesive pattern.

18. A method of reducing hollow sounds in wheel assemblies according to claim 16,
wherein the discrete beads of adhesive of the auxiliary pattern have at least one opposite terminal
end that is connected to the primary adhesive pattern.

19. A method of reducing hollow sounds in wheel assemblies according to claim 16,
wherein the hollow areas defined by the primary adhesive pattern include openings in the
primary adhesive pattern through which ambient fluids can freely enter and exit.

20. A method of reducing hollow sounds in wheel assemblies according to claim 16,
wherein the discrete beads of adhesive of the auxiliary adhesive pattern are linear.

21. A method of reducing hollow sounds in wheel assemblies according to claim 16,
wherein the discrete beads of adhesive of the auxiliary adhesive pattern have curved portions.